क्योंकि घरेलू उत्पादन नगण्य है। घरेलू मांग में आयात के प्रतिशत के बारे में आंकड़े संकलित नहीं किए जाते हैं, यद्यपि सोने, चांदी और मोती तथा बहुमूल्य रत्नों से संबंधित सम्पूर्ण आवश्यकता की पूर्ति व्यावहारिक रूप से आयातों के द्वारा ही की जाती है।

Export of Tea to USA

*205. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tea exporters of the country have visited U.S.A. in recent past to explore possibilities of export of tea in US. Premium tea market;

(b) whether some exporters of tea who are based in Kangra Valley in Himachal Pradesh also visited USA;

(c) whether Government have taken some initiatives to ensure that Indian tea export increases in USA where annual tea import is bout 90 million kg;

(d) whether Government propose to impress upon Government of Himachal Pradesh to provide all assistance to growers of tea in Kangra Valley for increasing the growth as well as the quality;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the resons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Yes Sir. A delegation of Government and tea industry representatives visited U.S.A. in October 98 for promotion of export of Indian tea.

(b) The major consumption of Indian tea in U.S.A. is of Black Tea. Production of Black Tea in Himachal Pradesh is negligiable. Therefore, no exporter of tea based in Kangra valley in Himachal Pradesh was included in the Tea Delegation to U.S.A.

(c) Government and the Tea Board have taken various steps to promote value-added forms of tea such as instant tea, iced tea, packet tea and tea bags in U.S.A. With the gradual change in consumer preference from cold tea to hot tea, efforts are being made to promote premium quality teas from India. Tea Board has been operating an Office in U.S.A. exclusively for promotion of Indian teas. Other steps taken by the Govt. and the Tea Board for promotion of Indian tea in foreign markets Include continuous analysis of country wise exports, giving special attention to areas offering potential, removal of bottlenecks in exports, participation in major trade fairs/exhibitions, media campaigns to increase consumer awareness, brand promotion and campaigns to popularise the Tea Board marketing symbol.

(d) to (f) Tea Board is operating various developmental schemes for which financial assistance by way of long term loan and subsidy is being extended for activities such as replantation, extension planting, setting up of new plantations, assistance to small growers in extension activities, research and development etc. The developmental schemes promoted by the Tea Board are *inter-alia* applicable to the State of Himachal Pradesh also.

Government accommodation in occuptation of Non-Government Servants

*207. DR. B. B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of general pool accommodation under occupation of persons, not being Government servants as on 31st October, 1998, type-wise;

(b) the reasons for making allotment of Government houses to them;

(c) since when these are under allotment and the terms and conditions thereof;

(d) whether there is any proposal to get these houses vacated; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) As on 31.10.98, 207 General Pool residential houses are in occuptation of non-Government ser-

vants as per the following type-wise details:

Type III	04
Type IV	58
Type IV (Special)	11
Type V	98
Type VI	22
Type VII	03
Type VIII	11

(b) Such allotments have been made in the past in keeping with the need to promote art, culture, literature, social service and to provide support to the freedom fighters as also to give protection to high security persons keeping in view the threat perception emanating from the public service rendered by them in the past. Further allotments have also been made to certain dignitaries, Such as, ex-president, ex-Vice President, ex-Prime Minister and their spouses after their demise.

(c) Allotment in the categories of eminent artists, freedom fighters, accredited Press Correspondents, Social Workers, etc. dates back to late 50s and 60s. Such allotments have been made generally to non-house owning persons on leave and licence basis for a limited period subject to review on payment of prescribed rates of licence fee.

(d) and (e) As per the revised guidelines, allotments made to private persons will be valid only upto the current allotment period. Any proposal for extension in the present allotment period will not be considered exception national interest or to meet international obligations with the approval of the Cabinet Committee on Accommodation (CCA).

Decline in foreign trade

*210. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated loss to exports and imports due to the damage caused by natural calamities at different ports during the last three years;

(b) the kind of relief Government gave to exporters/importers due to unforeseen natural calamities;

(c) whether these are sufficient; and

(d) if not, what other arrangements Government propose to make?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) During the last three years, no major loss to exports and imports have been reported by the Major Ports due to damage caused by natural calamities except the recent cyclone that hit Kandla on 9.6.1998. The total damage caused to the export/import cargo at Kandla Port has been estimated at Rs. 46.02 crores approximately.

(b) to (d) Since the cyclone had affected Kandla Port, all measures on war-footing were taken by that Port for early restoration of operations and the same were fully resumed within a month.

The Port Trust has granted 80% relief on demurrages on cargo for the period from 9.6.98 to 2.7.98.

Other measures included expediting assessment of damages and settlements of claims by insurance companies and advising financial institutions to favourable consider the requests of exporters/importers for cash credit limits, packing limits, export credit and working capital. Apart from restoring facilities at Kandla Port, arrangements were also made at other ports to handle cargo diverted from the Kandla Port.

Promotion of Small Scale Sector

*211. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to promote Small Scale Sector during Ninth Plan;

(b) if so, the guidelines issued to the District Industry Centres in this regard; and